has been undertaken by the Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices in the matter. The Bureau have already submitted their report. The matter has thereafter been examined and is under consideration of the Government. A final decision will be taken shortly.

Identification of sick unts in small scale sector

412. SHRI M. BASAVARAJU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently monitored any report identifying the sick units in the small scale sector;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what are the names of the agencies which were associated with the job of finding out the viability or otherwise of the sick small scale Industries; and

(d) what are the reasons for which State-level inter-institutional committees were not associated with the job?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

Service Conditions of LIC field workers

*414. SHRI K. MOHANAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the service conditions of the LIC field workers;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is no wage protection for this category of workers;

(c) whether any dispute on this issue is pending before the conciliation machinery of Government; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (d) The service conditions of the field workers of the LIC regulated by the Life Insurance Corporation of (Staff) Regulations, 1960, as amended in 1978 provide for a basic pay on a prescribed scale alongwith Special Pay, Dearness Allowance, City Compensatory Allowances, House Rent Allowance, ex-gratia in lieu of bonus. Conveyance Allowance and expenses on residential telephone. They are also given incentive bonus and additional conveyance allowance for better performance.

However, as per Staff Regulations, the field workers (Development Officers) are required to work within certain prescribed expense limit depending upon the area of operation. Performance on the higher expense limit attracts various types of disincentives ranging from 50 per cent cut in conveyance allowance to 1, 2, or 3 decrements. Extreme cases also attract termination of service though there are provisions for absorption of such a Development Officer in Class III cadre if he applies for the same and is otherwise eligible. However, adequate opportunities are given to the Development Officer to defend himself before any penal action is taken against him.

Several disputes regarding the service conditions of the Development Staff of the LIC were raised before the Conciliation Machinery of the Government and Reports on failure of conciliation were submitted to the Government by the Conciliation Machinery. The Reports are under consideration of the Government. Moreover, the issue of work norms is also pending before the Supreme Court for a decision.

News-item captioned "NRI help to market New export items advocated"

*415. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'NRI help to market new export items advocated' which appeared in the *Business Standard* of the 16th December, 1985; and